Rwanda - Strengthening Justice and Promoting Political Rights

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Overview

Identification

COUNTRY
Rwanda

EVALUATION TITLE
Strengthening Justice and Promoting Political Rights

EVALUATION TYPE
Independent Impact Evaluation

ID NUMBER
DDC-MCC-RWA-THRESHOLD-MPR-2014-v1.1

Version

VERSION DESCRIPTION
Anonymized dataset for public distribution

Overview

ABSTRACT
Our mixed-methods study—combining experimental, quasi-experimental, descriptive, and qualitative methods—assesses four of the five RTP components. Specifically, the components covered by this study are (1) Strengthening the Inspectorate Services of the RNP, (2) Strengthening the Rule of Law for Policy Reform, (3) Media Strengthening, and (4) Strengthening Civic Participation. Collectively, these four components account for over 85 percent of the RTP's total program implementation budget. To determine the scope of the evaluation, we first sought to identify implemented activities within a component that could potentially produce a measurable effect within the study's timeframe. For example, in coordination with MCC, we decided not to study effects of the Media Strengthening component's assistance to media associations, because only a small part of the original activity plan for these associations was implemented. Next, we examined each activity to determine whether it would be possible to obtain data that would generate meaningful evidence on the program's effects. We sought to collect information about either a comparison group similar to those who received the program or the prior status of program beneficiaries before activities began. Several RTP activities did not meet this requirement. For example, the RNP Strengthening and Media Strengthening components provided training and technical assistance to a large number of journalists and RNP officers before our evaluation was initiated, precluding the collection of baseline data or the identification of a comparison group. Likewise, activities that were nationwide in scope, such as the legislative policy reform initiatives supported by the Strengthening Rule of Law component or efforts to support passage of a national media reform law as part of the Media Strengthening component, were not included in the evaluation due to the absence of baseline data or an identifiable comparison group. It is possible that the RTP may have had indirect, longer-term impacts on national policies and institutions that fall beyond the scope of our evaluation designs.

EVALUATION METHODOLOGY
Randomization, Quasi-experimental

UNITS OF ANALYSIS
Individuals

KIND OF DATA
Sample survey data [ssd]

TOPICS

Topic	Vocabulary	URI
Capacity Building and Institutional Development	MCC Sector	
Gender	MCC Sector	

Coverage

GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE
National

UNIVERSE
Program implementers, CSO leaders, local government officials, and RNP officers

Producers and Sponsors

PRIMARY INVESTIGATOR(S)

Name	Affiliation
Mathematica Policy Research	

FUNDING

Name	Abbreviation	Role
Millennium Challenge Corporation	MCC	

Metadata Production

METADATA PRODUCED BY

Name	Abbreviation	Affiliation	Role
Millennium Challenge Corporation	MCC		Metadata Producer

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MCC Compact and Program

COMPACT OR THRESHOLD
Rwanda Threshold

PROGRAM
The Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) sponsored the Rwanda Threshold Program (RTP) to help the Government of Rwanda improve its performance on the MCC Political Rights, Civil Liberties, and Voice and Accountability eligibility indicators. Mathematica Policy Research was selected to evaluate the impacts of this program. Through an integrated, multiyear data collection effort, Mathematica implemented evaluation designs that provide important information about the effectiveness of four major components of the RTP: 1. Strengthening Rwanda National Police (RNP) inspectorate services. This component was designed to enhance the accountability and professionalism of the RNP. Our evaluation focuses on the component's Every Voice Counts campaign, which installed a nationwide system of submission boxes for citizen complaints and commendations. The evaluation provides descriptive findings on citizen awareness of the campaign and perceptions regarding RNP trustworthiness and effectiveness, comparing responses of citizens living in sectors (political subdivisions within a district) that received complaint boxes to those from a comparison group of citizens living in sectors without complaint boxes. 2. Strengthening the rule of law for policy reform. This component sought to improve and professionalize Rwanda's judicial and legislative processes. To assess the effectiveness of the program's judicial training activities, we completed a descriptive study using an interrupted time series evaluation design to determine if the training coincided with improvements in the number of judicial decisions being written according to international standards of clarity and transparency. 3. Media strengthening. In addition to providing a wide range of technical training to journalists and media organizations, this component supported the creation of two community radio stations. To evaluate the effects of these radio stations, we conducted a survey before the stations began broadcasting to understand baseline levels of media consumption

and radio listenership. After combining this information with data from the follow-up survey in 2012, we applied a comparison group design to estimate the potential impacts of the radio stations. This approach compares trends in sectors receiving strong broadcast signals from the RTP stations to trends in a set of comparison sectors receiving weaker broadcast signals. 4. Strengthening civic participation. This component supported the efforts of civil society organizations (CSOs) to advocate for local issues, and provided training to local government officials to increase their responsiveness to citizens. The component was only partially implemented, however, because the RTP was not extended to include a final (third) year of activities as originally planned. Mathematica oversaw a pairwise random selection process to select the 15 program districts that received Strengthening Civic Participation activities; this enabled a rigorous evaluation design, whereby we estimate impacts by comparing survey data in the 15 treatment districts to survey data in 15 control districts. To assess impacts relevant to this component, we collected data from citizens on civic participation indicators including perceptions about local government performance, openness, responsiveness, and accountability.

MCC SECTOR
Capacity Building and Institutional Development (Cap Bldg & Inst Dev)

PROGRAM LOGIC
The RTP included five distinct components, each with its own set of targeted objectives: (1) Strengthening the Inspectorate Services of the Rwandan National Police (RNP) to increase police professionalism and accountability, (2) Strengthening the Rule of Law for Policy Reform to improve the professionalism of the judiciary and increase legislative capacity in Parliament, (3) Media Strengthening to enhance media professionalism and support independent media sources, (4) Strengthening Civic Participation to increase citizen participation in local government and improve the capacity of local civil society organizations (CSOs), and (5) Strengthening Civil Society to expand national CSO involvement in central government policymaking. For a detailed discussion of the RTP's implementation, see Chapter III.

Sampling

Study Population

Program implementers, CSO leaders, local government officials, and RNP officers

Sampling Procedure

The baseline and follow-up surveys each had a target sample size of 10,000 respondents. Each survey included a different sample of respondents (i.e. data is cross-sectional, not longitudinal). To ensure that the sample was representative and widely distributed across the country, sample targets were calculated at the sector level. Using the most recent national census, we calculated the proportion of the national population within each sector. We determined the number of individuals to survey in each sector by applying that proportion to our targeted sample size of 10,000. The survey sample included all 416 sectors in Rwanda. Within each sector, households were selected using a random walk method, and one adult respondent (age 16 or older) was selected at random within each household.

Response Rate

Baseline: 96.3%
Follow-up: 97.4%

Questionnaires

Overview

Citizen Survey Questionnaire Design: the citizen survey questionnaire focused on activities implemented under three components of the RTP: RNP Strengthening, Media Strengthening, and Strengthening Civic Participation.

Data Collection

Data Collection Dates

Start	End	Cycle

Data Collection Notes

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Data Collectors

Name	Abbreviation	Affiliation
Roddom Consult Ltd.		

Data Processing

Data Editing

We used a data cleaning process designed to resolve inconsistencies in survey responses, survey question skip-patterns, and out-of-range data. These cleaning measures were implemented via SAS statistical software (version 9). To create a final data file for analysis and public use, we consulted with MCC regarding guidelines to ensure that all respondent personally identifiable information (PII) would be protected, primarily by destroying records of respondent names and by grouping outlier survey responses with potentially identifying information (such as very high age or income levels) into a uniform upper limit, or "top code."

Other Processing

Data entry was completed using CSPro software.

Data Appraisal

Estimates of Sampling Error

The standard errors of the impact estimates were corrected for the possibility of correlations among individuals' outcomes within sectors.